



WABAUNSEE COUNTY FARM SERVICE AGENCY



United States
Department of
Agriculture

County Committee:

Shirley A Stuewe, Member
Gerald Hund, Member
Robert Kraus, Member

Monte N. Johnson
County Executive Director
Wabaunsee County FSA Office
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Alma, Kansas 66401

Office Staff:

Deb Ridgway
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COC Mtg. 2nd Wednesday of the Month @ 10:00 a.m.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

May 24, 2006

Phone: (785) 765-3329
Fax: (785) 765-3673

Direct Payment Change

Producers who enroll land in the Direct and Countercyclical Payment Program after Feb. 8 will have the option to receive an advance direct payment of 40 percent of the direct payment for any covered commodity for the 2006 crop year.

The amount of the advance payment was reduced from 50 percent by the Agricultural Reconciliation Act of 2005, also known as Title I of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005.

Producers who enrolled in the 2006 DCP program prior to Feb. 8 and elected to receive a 50 percent advance direct payment will be unaffected.

As before, producers may elect to receive their direct payments in two installments per year. The first payment is available in December of the calendar year before the crop is harvested. The balance of the direct payment is available in October of the calendar year in which the crop is harvested.

For the 2007 crop year, producers will have the option to receive an advance payment of 22 percent of the total direct payment. The total value of the direct payment does not change. Producers will receive the balance of the direct payment in the second installment.

Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

FSA has a Farm-Stored Facility Loan (FSFL) Program available to eligible producers. Producers can borrow up to 85% of the cost, not to exceed \$100,000, to build new or remodel existing permanent storage facilities or drying or handling equipment for up to 7 years. A minimum down payment of the difference is required. The interest rate is equivalent to the rate charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity loan amount and is fixed for the life of the loan. May's interest rate is 4.875%.

CCC Commodity Loans and LDPS

The **2006 crop loan rates for Wabaunsee County are:**

Wheat	\$2.80	Grain Sorghum	\$3.29 cwt.
Corn	\$1.97	Soybeans	\$4.92
Oats	\$1.34	Barley	\$1.75

Producers should be thinking **now** about having the appropriate form in place for the anticipated LDP season.

Sodbuster and Swampbuster

Most Farm Service Agency programs require compliance with sodbuster and swampbuster provisions. These provisions require producers to follow an approved conservation system on all highly erodible land planted to an annual crop as determined by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Be sure to have determinations made on any new land you plan to plant to annual crops. If you plan to plant a different crop on your current cropland, check with NRCS to assure the new crop will qualify under your conservation system.

Swampbuster provisions state that converting a wetland to make possible the planting of a crop will result in the loss of all USDA benefits. To avoid penalties it is strongly recommended that producers check with NRCS before starting any dirt work.

CRP 20th Anniversary

Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of USDA's Conservation Reserve Program. Join the Farm Service Agency and their conservation partners on a field tour of Filter Strips, Rare and Declining Habitat, Contour Grass Strip Terraces, and Upland Bird Habitat Buffers in Dickinson County on June 7. Meeting site is Mary Dell Camp Area at Brown Memorial Park 1 1/2 miles south of Abilene on Highway 15. Catered lunch provided. Call 785-539-3531 to pre-register by June 1.



CRP-REX Compliance Reviews

Conservation Reserve Program participants re-enrolling or extending (**REX**) CRP contracts expiring in the years 2007-2010 must have a compliance review completed for all acreage under contract. This applies irregardless whether they extend part of or all acres of a contract! A flat fee of \$45.00 plus \$1 per acre is charged for the compliance reviews.

Compliance reviews are conducted to determine:

- 1) Presence of noxious weeds including Johnson grass, Musk Thistle, and Sericea Lespedeza.
- 2) Presence of other undesirable weeds, plants (including cedar and other trees), insects, and pests.
- 3) Proper maintenance of approved cover including adequate fertilization and preventing haying, grazing, or other unauthorized use of CRP acres.
- 4) Required management activities according to the conservation plan are being performed.

Each field under a CRP contract will be inspected to determine whether compliance requirements are met. If discrepancies are found the participant will be notified and the county committee will determine whether the producer acted in good faith to comply with program requirements. If good faith is determined a standard payment reduction will be applied to the acres in violation and the producer must apply recommended practices to return the violated acreage to compliance standards **before** re-enrollment or extension of a contract can be approved. If good faith is not determined the violated acres will be terminated from contract and the participant shall be subject to refund all annual payments earned for the violated acreage as well as liquidated damages! Inspections of CRP acreage requested for re-enrollment or extension began in May and will be completed as soon as feasible. Contact your local FSA office for more information on

2006 County Committee Elections

Shirley Stuewe will be completing her term in office and will be eligible for re-election. The LAA 2 area runs west of highway 99 which includes the town of Alta Vista and Alma.

The County office will take petitions through August 1, 2006, from any individual in LAA-2 who would like to serve on the county committee starting in 2007. The County Committee meets once a month to review and approve program applications, handle appeals, monitor emergency and disaster situations, and ensure programs are administered fairly to all producers in the county.

Foreign Investors

Foreign investors acquiring or transferring any interest in agricultural land exceeding 10 acres are required to report the transaction to the Farm Service Agency within 90 days. An interest of 10 acres or less does not require a report unless annual sales proceeds exceed \$1,000.

Failure to disclose this interest can result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the land’s market value.

**** Office Closed ****

July 4, 2006 – Have a fun and safe holiday



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